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The Effectiveness of a Federally Funded Fully Online Interdisciplinary Training Program for Preparing Adapted Physical Education Teachers and Positive Behavioral Intervention Specialists

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper was to evaluate the effectiveness of a federally funded fully online interdisciplinary program for preparing adapted physical education teachers and positive behavioral intervention specialists. This program recruited 32 students from August 2020 to August 2026. Each student was prepared with 14 courses (42 credit hours) and took 2 courses in each semester over 7 semesters within 2.33 years in support of the federally funded grant. Each course was fully delivered online through the Desire2learn System. The effectiveness was evaluated based on eight measures. They included the calculations of (a) the mean score across quizzes, (b) the mean score across assignments, (c) the mean score across examinations, and (d) the mean score across research projects in a 100-point scale with 100 the best; and the calculations of (e) the minimum practicum hours completed by each student; (f) the mean grade point average in a 4-point scale with 4 the best; (g) the percentage of students earning a master's degree and graduate certificate; and (h) the percentage of students passing the national exam for the certified adapted physical educator. The results obtained were 96.96 for (a), 89.06 for (b), 87.16 for (c), 87.40 (d), 200 for (e), 3.76 for (f), 96.88% for (g), and (h) 87.50%. These documented that this interdisciplinary program was effective for preparing adapted physical education teachers and positive behavioral intervention specialists, which was resulted from financial support from federal grant, student educational backgrounds, nationally course standards, nationally-recognized professors, and Desire2learn Online Learning Platform.

Keywords: Adapted Physical Education Teachers; Positive Behavioral Intervention Socialists; Federally Funded Preparation Program; And Fully Online Training Program